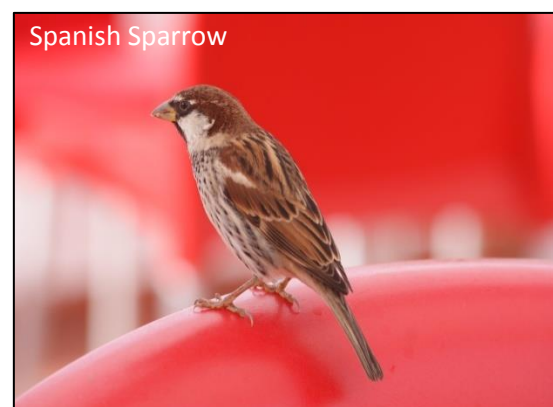
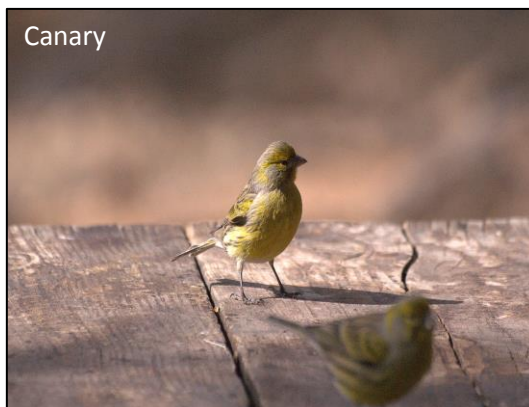


Tenerife December 2010

John & Thomas Yates



Bird List

Barbary Partridge

Coot

Sparrowhawk

Common Sandpiper

Lesser Black Backed Gull

Laurel Pigeon

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Plain Swift

Sardinian Warbler

African Blue Tit

Chaffinch

Little Egret

Kestrel

Barbary Falcon

Whimbrel

Sandwich Tern

Bolle's Pigeon

Bethelot's Pipet

Robin

Canary Islands Chiffchaff

Great Grey Shrike

Blue Chaffinch

Moorhen

Buzzard

Turnstone

Yellow Legged Gull

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon

Collared Dove

Grey Wagtail

Blackbird

Tenerife Kinglet

Spanish Sparrow

Ring Necked Parakeet

Mammal List

Common Dolphin

Bottle-nosed Dolphin

Short Fin Pilot Whale

Bird Literature

Clarke and Collins
Svenson/Mullarney/ Zetterstrom

A Birdwatchers Guide To The Canary Islands Prion Ltd
Collins Bird Guide

Sunday 26th December 2010

As we drove down from the snow bound Midlands on Boxing Day, the car temperature gauge recorded a low of -10°C near Oxford!! Soon though the low temperatures were forgotten as we took the midday flight from Gatwick to Tenerife South. The temperatures throughout our holiday week would average 21°C. After checking into the Fanabe Costa Sur hotel in Costa Adeje we took an afternoon walk into the town, along the seafront and around the port. Feral Pigeon, Canary Island Chiffchaff, Collared Dove, Yellow Legged Gull and Spanish Sparrow were soon evident, while a Common Sandpiper and Turnstones were seen at the port. We used the 'Road Train' to whisk us back for our evening meal.

Monday 27th December 2010

Early the following morning we hired a small car from Canarias.com and drove up into the mountains along the TF-1 and then the TF-21 via Vilaflor. We were soon above the cloud layer that had engulfed the view of the dormant Mount Teide from the coast and were taking in the panoramic views of the pine clad mountains. We pulled in for a brief visit to the Las Lajas picnic site where we quickly found Blue Chaffinch, Canary, Great Spotted Woodpecker, African Blue Tit and Tenerife Kinglet in the car park. Kestrels were everywhere and a Barbary Partridge was seen from the car as we descended.

Tuesday 28th December 2010

We decided to visit the East of the island and after brief stops in Santa Cruz and La Laguna we made our way to Bajamar and then Punta del Hidalgo on the Northern coast. A Little Egret and more Turnstones were seen and a fleeting Sardinian Warbler was glimpsed on a short coastal walk.

Wednesday 29th December 2010

After spending a lot of time travelling yesterday we stayed local and visited Las Galletes. The only bird of note was a Whimbrel. We called in at Palm-Mar for drinks and as we were leaving I saw more Barbary Partridges and a Bethelot's Pipet on some rough ground just outside the town. Confiding Great Grey Shrikes were also seen here later in the week.

Thursday 30th December 2010

Having dropped the rest of our party at Loro Parque, I made my way to the Mirador La Grimona along the TF-5. This pull in is on the ocean side of the road just after a small tunnel. I soon had good but distant views of three Laurel Pigeons perched in a tree to the right of the steep hillside. The white-tail clearly stood out when perched and in flight. We spent the rest of the day at Loro Parque and enjoyed the Orca show spectacle, Mountain Gorillas and the 'state of the art' Penguin enclosure. Plain Swifts and a Lesser Black Backed Gull were seen in Purto De La Cruz. We took the scenic route back and stopped off at the Erjos ponds for half an hour. Sparrowhawk and Buzzard were seen soaring and numerous Coots and Moorhens were on the ponds.

Friday 31st December 2010

This was my big bird day. I arrived at Monte del Agua (Erjos) and drove up the rough road to the red and white transmitter. Numerous Chaffinchs were seen on the way up. On the way to the view point we had a brief view of a Bolle's Pigeon. Identification was based on the same tail pattern as the pigeon on the front cover of the Clarke & Collins bird guide. Again we saw African Blue Tits, Kinglets, Robin and numerous Blackbirds. After about an hour we eventually arrived at 'Hornbuckles' rock watch point but failed to see any pigeons. We heard lots of wing-claps and had brief views of Pigeons on the way back but views were generally unsatisfactory. The Pigeons always seemed to be up the hillside at the top of the tall Laurel trees making viewing very difficult. A little disappointing to have not had better views of the pigeon!!

Next we made our way back to the Las Lajas picnic site to see the aforementioned species. We left broken biscuits on one of the picnic tables and soon the birds were coming down allowing excellent photographic opportunities.

Saturday 1st January 2011

Today we made a late decision to take a trip on the Freebird 1 catamaran for a Whale and Dolphin watching trip. This seemed to be the only boat trip available on New Year's Day. We had absolutely stunning views of both Common and Bottle-Nosed Dolphins swimming alongside the boat. Fantastic views were also had of a pod of Short Fined Pilot Whales. As we returned to port we stopped at a bay for swimming where my son pointed out what he thought was yet another Kestrel. On closer inspection it turned out to be a Barbary Falcon harassing the local Yellow Legged Gulls. No Cory's Shearwaters were seen on the trip, a seabird I had seen closely on a previous summer holiday. Four Ring Necked Parakeets flew over McDonalds. After a final walk around the town and a quick round of mini golf, we returned the hire car in the evening.

Sunday 2nd January 2011

We caught the early afternoon flight back to Gatwick.

2012 addendum

We again spent the 2012 New Year in the Canary Islands but this time we spent the majority of our time on the beach or taking short walks around the resort.

Birds were few and far between but Canary Islands Chiffchaff, Collared Dove, Spanish Sparrow and Yellow Legged Gull were again common around La Pinta hotel on Tenerife and Whimbrel, Common Swift, Sandwich Tern and Little Egret were noted at Las Palmas on Gran Canaria. I didn't see any seabirds or Cetaceans on the sea crossing from Gran Canaria to Tenerife.



Canary Island Chiffchaff



Whimbrel



Monarch Butterfly

Johnyatesuk@yahoo.co.uk